Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) In a telecommunications billing system, a method of providing billing information to a customer in accordance with a customer-defined format, the method comprising:

assigning telephone numbers to company units;

defining how each of the company units relate to each other in a hierarchy;

storing the hierarchy ~~in a database~~ on a server, the server receiving billing information from a billing repository and formatting the billing information in accordance with the hierarchy;

processing the billing information associated with each assigned telephone number in accordance with the hierarchy; and

presenting the processed billing information to the customer.

2. (original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the hierarchy is organized according to corporate structure and/or geographical location of the company units.

3. (original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the customer-defined format comprises customer-defined labels.

4. (currently amended) In a telecommunications billing system, a method of providing a bill in accordance with a customer-defined format, the method comprising:

retrieving billing information from a billing repository;

processing the <u>retrieved</u> billing information <u>at a server</u> in accordance with the customer-defined format stored ~~in a database~~ <u>on the server</u>, the customer-defined format comprising a hierarchy;

sending the processed billing information to an outputting operation where a bill is generated in accordance with the hierarchy;

sending the bill to a customer.

5. (original) The method according to claim 4, wherein the hierarchy is organized according to corporate structure and/or geographical location of the company units.

6. (original) The method according to claim 4, wherein the customer-defined format further comprises customer-defined labels.

7. (currently amended) In an electronic billing system, a method of enabling a customer to create a hierarchal structure to support internal company criteria, the method comprising:

enabling the customer to assign telephone numbers to company units;

enabling the customer to define how each of the company units relate to each other in a hierarchy;

storing the hierarchy ~~in a database~~ on a server, the server receiving billing information from a billing repository and formatting the billing information in accordance with the hierarchy; and

enabling the customer to view billing information associated with selected portions of the hierarchy.

8. (original) The method according to claim 7, the method further comprising enabling the customer to update the assignments of telephone numbers to company units.

9. (original) The method according to claim 7, the method further comprising enabling the customer to update the definition of how each of the company units relate to each other in the hierarchy.

10. (original) The method according to claim 7, wherein a company unit displayed in the viewed billing information contains a hyperlink to billing information associated with a child node in the hierarchy.

11. (original) The method according to claim 7, wherein a charge displayed in a column of a summary billing report contains a hyperlink to a detailed billing report associated with the charge.

12. (original) The method according to claim 7, wherein the hierarchy is organized according to corporate structure and/or geographical location of the company units.

13. (original) The method according to claim 7, the method further comprising

allowing the customer to set permissions that determine access rights to billing information.

14. (original) The method according to claim 13, wherein a permission is set to determine access to a specific level of the hierarchy.

15. (original) The method according to claim 7, wherein the hierarchal structure comprises a customer-defined format comprising customer-defined labels.

16. (currently amended) In an electronic billing system, a method of creating a hierarchal structure to support a customer's internal company criteria, the method comprising:

assigning telephone numbers to company units according to the customer's internal company criteria;

defining how each of the company units relate to each other in a hierarchy in accordance with the customer's request;

storing the hierarchy ~~in a database~~ on a server, the server receiving billing information from a billing repository and formatting the billing information in accordance with the hierarchy; and

enabling the customer to view billing information associated with selected portions of the hierarchy.

17. (original) The method according to claim 16, the method further comprising

enabling the customer to update the assignments of telephone numbers to company units.

18. (original) The method according to claim 16, the method further comprising enabling the customer to update the definition of how each of the company units relate to each other in the hierarchy.

19. (original) The method according to claim 16, wherein a company unit displayed in the viewed billing information contains a hyperlink to billing information associated with a child node in the hierarchy.

20. (original) The method according to claim 16, wherein a charge displayed in a column of a summary billing report contains a hyperlink to a detailed billing report associated with the charge.

21. (original) The method according to claim 16, wherein the hierarchy is organized according to corporate structure and/or geographical location of the company units.

22. (original) The method according to claim 16, the method further comprising allowing the customer to set permissions that determine access rights to billing information.

23. (original) The method according to claim 22, wherein a permission is set to determine access to a specific level of the hierarchy.

24. (original) The method according to claim 16, wherein the hierarchal structure

comprises a customer-defined format comprising customer-defined labels.

25. (currently amended) A system for creating a billing statement according to a customer-defined hierarchal structure, the system comprising:

a server that stores a customer hierarchy <u>and receives billing information from a billing repository and formats the billing information</u>, the hierarchy comprising an assignment of telephone numbers to company units and an indication of how each of the company units relate to each other;

a processor that processes billing information associated with each assigned telephone number in accordance with the hierarchy; and

a ~~component~~ <u>presenter</u> that presents the processed billing information to the customer.

26. (original) The system according to claim 25, wherein the server receives and stores updated hierarchal information from the customer.

27. (original) The system according to claim 26, wherein the updating of the hierarchal information does not affect upstream billing systems.

28. (original) The system according to claim 25, wherein the server receives and stores permissions from the customer that determine access rights to billing information.

29. (original) The system according to claim 25, wherein the customer-defined hierarchal structure comprises a customer-defined format comprising customer-defined

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labels.

30. (currently amended) A computer readable medium storing a computer program that displays electronic billing information to a customer, the computer readable medium comprising:

a receiving source code segment that receives a hierarchy defined by a customer, the hierarchy comprising an assignment of telephone numbers to company units and an indication of how each of the company units relate to each other;

a storing source code segment that stores the hierarchy on a server;

a receiving source code segment that receives billing information at the server from a billing repository;

a processing source code segment that processes the billing information associated with each assigned telephone number in accordance with the hierarchy; and

a presenting source code segment that presents the billing information to the customer.

31. (original) The computer readable medium of claim 30, wherein the hierarchy further comprises a customer-defined format comprising customer-defined labels.

32. (new) The method according to claim 1, wherein the billing information is presented to the customer in accordance with a billing period defined by the customer.

33. (new) The method according to claim 4, wherein the billing information is

sent to the customer in accordance with a billing period defined by the customer.

34. (new) The method according to claim 7, further comprising enabling a representative of the customer to check out the hierarchy, at which time the hierarchy is available to other representatives of the customer on a read only basis.

35. (new) The method according to claim 16, further comprising enabling a representative of the customer to check out the hierarchy, at which time the hierarchy is available to other representatives of the customer on a read only basis.